

Amendment and Response
13354XRUS06V (NOR-083)
U.S. Serial No. 10/695,109
Page 5

REMARKS

Claims 27-36 and 38 were presented for examination. The Office Action mailed February 23, 2005 rejects claims 27-36 and 38. This paper amends claims 27, 29, 31, 35 and 38. Claims 27-36 and 38 are pending in the application.

Objections to claims 29 and 38

The Office Action objects to claim 29 because the term "arraigning" on line 2 is misspelled. Claim 29 as amended herein includes correction of the misspelled term.

The Office Action objects to claim 38 because the Response of October 26, 2004 states that claim 38 was amended; however, claim 38 as filed was kept in its original form. Applicants herein amend claim 38 relative to the previously presented versions of claim 38. The status identifier for claim 38 is now shown as "Currently amended" and markings are included to show the changes from the originally-filed claim.

Rejection of claims 27-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejects claims 27-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

The Office Action states that independent claim 27 recites "a first substrate material" without disclosing a second substrate material. Applicants herein amend claim 27 to remove the term "first." Applicants also herein amend claim 31 to introduce the "first" and "second" substrate materials, and to provide for proper antecedent basis for claims depending from claim 31.

The Office Action states that the phrase "at least one of the substrate materials" recited in claim 35 lacks antecedent basis. Applicants herein amend claim 35 to replace this phrase with "the substrate material."

Amendment and Response
13354XRUS06V (NOR-083)
U.S. Serial No. 10/695,109
Page 6

The Office Action states that claims 28-36 are rejected based upon the rejected base claim. Applicants submit that claims 28-36 overcome the rejection based on the amendment of claim 27 described above. Moreover, based on the description of "Allowable Subject Matter" stated in the Office Action and Applicants amendments described above, Applicants submit that claims 27-36 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection of claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejects claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,583,688 by Hornbeck (hereafter "Hornbeck"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection to the extent it is maintained against claim 38 as amended.

Hornbeck teaches a micro-mirror device having a yoke to limit the rotation of a micro-mirror. Hornbeck discloses gaps and structures between mirrors for electrical and mechanical isolation.

Applicants' invention as now set forth in claim 38 recites in pertinent part "blocking dams disposed between the mirrors to block viscous interaction between each of the two dimensional deflecting mirrors and adjacent ones of the two-dimensional deflecting mirrors." Support for this amendment can be found at least on page 15, line 12 to page 16 line 4, and on page 29, line 5 to page 32, line 7 of Applicants' specification.

Hornbeck does not teach or suggest blocking dams between mirrors to block viscous interaction between the mirrors. More specifically, Hornbeck does not address how to prevent viscous interactions between the mirrors based on air movement caused by the rotation of the mirrors. This motion of air can adversely influence the position of nearby mirrors. Instead, the mechanical isolation disclosed in Hornbeck is limited to the physical and electrical separation of the mirror devices. Because Hornbeck does not teach or suggest all limitations of the Applicants invention as now recited in claim 38, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is overcome.

Amendment and Response
13354XRUS06V (NOR-083)
U.S. Serial No. 10/695,109
Page 7

CONCLUSION


In view of the arguments made herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and requests early favorable action by the Examiner.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the Applicants' representative would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned at (508) 303-2003.

Respectfully submitted,

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